

## BEWARE OF MAN WORSHIP

November 21, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - While it is proper to give honor to whom honor is due (Rom. 13:7), God has warned us about exalting men more than is godly and decent. The Corinthians were guilty of the latter. They were men followers--"I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:12)--and were rebuked for their carnal folly. The Bible says that all glorying is to be directed to the Lord, not to weak, sinful, imperfect men. "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (1 Cor. 1:31). Elihu was wise when he said, "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto men. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away" (Job 32:21).

Sadly, there are some leaders among fundamental Baptists who have exalted themselves beyond the bounds of reason and wisdom and their followers love to have it so. A prominent example is Pastor Jack Hyles, First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana. Recently an entire issue of a magazine was devoted to his praise. The magazine, *The Baptist Contender*, is published by the Berean Baptist Church, Pinellas Park, Florida, and the editor is Pastor Tom Neal. Following are some of the amazing quotes from the April 2000 issue, which is devoted to Jack Hyles as "the Man of the Millennium":

"No one is more responsible for our liberty and freedom, as well as our love for the Bible, church building and life in general, than Jack Hyles" (Pastor Tom Neal, p. 3).

"[Jack Hyles] may be one of the best Christians who has ever lived" (Pastor Brent Neal, p. 4).

"...this miracle named Jack Hyles. . . . [he is] the only Baptist pastor in history to have one million souls come to Christ through his ministry. . . ." (Pastor Bob Gray of Texas, pp. 24,25).

"America has become Dr. Hyles parish . . . because American Fundamental pastors made it so" (Pastor Bob Gray, p. 24).

"If there is one in our generation whom God would label a N.T. prophet, it surely would be Brother Hyles. No other mortal man has had such a great influence on as many lives since Christ and the Apostle Paul" (Pastor John Vaprepsan, p. 21).

"Think of the grandeur which accompanies the names of Abraham, Elijah, David, Moses, John the Baptist and Paul when the name is spoken. Each of these were

great in their time. Each accomplished great achievements for God; each had a special anointing of God and each name is revered thousands of years later. Dr. Jack Hyles is another name to be added to these names of influence and grandeur. . . . Just speak the name of Jack Hyles, and you speak of greatness” (Pastor Dean Miller, p. 22).

“I sometimes wonder if he [Jack Hyles] is not one of God’s favorites” (Pastor Brent Neal, p. 3).

“We will never again see another like Jack Hyles, thus making him the ‘man of the Millennium’. . . . God chose him to be the epitome of what a real man of God is to be. . . . There is no one who has accomplished what he has accomplished for His Lord. . . . God has miraculously used this man to build the greatest church since the days of the N.T.” (Pastor Tom Neal, p. 22).

“Bible truths that seem to escape the weary eyes of others jump out and capture his alert mind. . . . America has lived off the legacy of truths overlooked by the nominal Bible study, while the eagle eye of this man has harvested these great truths” (Pastor Bill Burr, p. 24).

“No one could compare with him as a preacher. . . . The only sermon that could ever equal a sermon that he preached was one he preached prior” (Pastor Brent Neal, p. 3).

“[Jack Hyles is] the most complete man of God ever to mount a pulpit” (Pastor Tom Neal, p. 24).

“His crisp manly walk, his impish smile, his sarcastic humor, his wit, to be matched by no living man, woman or beast. . . . His ability to preach such physically exhausting sermons, perfectly prepared, spectacularly delivered and then give his mind to the burdens of others, is beyond comprehension” (Pastor Bob Gray of Texas, pp. 24,25).

“He is the embodiment of all that Fundamentalists hold dear” (Pastor Brent Neal, p. 4).

“He has influenced more pastors, more churches and more Christians for righteousness--both the imputed righteousness of Christ and personal righteousness--than any other man alive” (Pastor John Vaprehsan, p. 21).

“... the list of those whom Dr. Hyles has served is so long that it can only be kept in heaven with an angel assigned as a full-time recorder” (Pastor Tom Neal, p. 3).

“He condescends and ascends at will to be all things to all men . . . when you have been loved by him, you have experienced a love that is unsurpassed by man. . . . you have never been loved, until you have been loved by Jack Hyles. . . . There are character strengths that set him apart from others; strength of love, loyalty, generosity, courage, humility, patience, separation, and of course, faithfulness” (pp. 3,23,24).

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#### CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BRO. CLOUD:

Nowhere in the New Testament Scriptures do we see Christian leaders exalting one another in this manner. It is not wise, godly, nor expedient. Those who are giving such praise to men are wrong; those who receive the praise are wrong; and those who stand on the sidelines and say nothing about it are wrong. The Bible warns that to have respect of persons is to commit sin (James 2:9). One of the characteristics of the false teachers who were tempting the church at Corinth was that they exalted themselves (2 Cor. 11:20).

We close by repeating wise words from the book of Job: “Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto men. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away” (Job 32:21).